

Used Oil and Filter Facts

General Facts

- Used motor oil can contain toxic substances such as benzene, lead, zinc, and cadmium.¹
- The oil from a single oil change (1 gallon) can ruin the taste of a million gallons of drinking water, the supply of 50 people for one year.²
- Films of oil on the surface of water prevent the replenishment of dissolved oxygen, impair photosynthetic processes, and block sunlight, which kills fish and other aquatic life.³
- Oil dumped on land reduces soil productivity.³
- Concentrations of 50 to 100 parts per million (ppm) of used oil can foul sewage treatment processes.³

California General Statistics

- 1 in 5 households have a do-it-yourself (DIY) oil changer.⁴
- More than 2,800 State-certified collection centers and 70 curbside collection programs accept used oil for free. ([Find your nearest certified center...](#))⁵
- More than 119 million gallons of used oils were recycled in the year 2004.⁶

Re-refined Oil Facts

- 2.5 quarts of re-refined lubricating oil can be produced from one gallon of used oil.²
- Re-refining is energy efficient—less energy is required to produce a gallon of re-refined base stock than to produce a base stock from crude oil.⁷
- Re-refined oil prices are competitive to equivalent virgin oil products.⁸
- The United States Postal Service and National Park Service use re-refined oil in their vehicle fleets.⁸

- The Department of Defense compared making lube oils from virgin base oil and used oil and determined used oil was more environmentally friendly and cost-effective to use.⁹

Oil Filters

- Each year the U.S. generates 425 million used automotive oil filters containing 160,000 tons of iron and 18 million gallons of oil.¹⁰
- Recycling all the filters sold annually in the United States would result in the recovery of about 160,000 tons of steel, or enough steel to make 16 new stadiums the size of Atlanta's Turner Stadium.¹¹
- Used oil filters can contain more than 45 percent used motor oil in weight when removed from the vehicle.¹²

References

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